Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

# Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12290 220511Z

14
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-11

COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 IGA-02 /186 W
---------- 034416
P R 220440Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6980
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, JA, VN
SUBJ: JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIETNAM: PRESS REPORTS

REF: TOKYO 11082

1. JAPANESE PRESS DURING LAST FEW DAYS HAS HAD SEVERAL ARTICLES SPECULATING ON POSSIBLE GOJ ASSISTANCE TO DRV.

2. FRONG PAGE ASAHI SHINBUN ARTICLE SEPTEMBER 22 READ IN PART AS FOLLOWS (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION): QUOTE THE GOVT, PURSUANT TO ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM, SOLIDIFIED ITS ECONOMIC AID POLICIES TOWARDS NORTH VIETNAM ON THE FWENTY-FIRST. AS A SUMMARY: IF THERE IS A FORMAL REQUEST FROM NORTH VIETNAM FOR AID; 1) AS IS THE CASE CONCERNING AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM, STEPS WILL BE TAKEN FOR PROVIDING $20 MILLION GRANT AID IN THIS JFY SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET; 2) WAYS OF SPENDING THE MONEY WILL BE LEFT UP TO NORTH VIETNAM, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE USED TO REPAIR HAIPHONG HARBOR FACILITIES DAMAGED BY BOMBING AND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COAL RESOURCES CENTERING ON HONGEY COAL;
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12290 220511Z

3) IN ORDER TO SURVEY THESE PROJECTS, A GOVT SURVEY TEAM WILL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BE DISPATCHED FROM JAPAN; 4) IF, SEPARATELY FROM THE ABOVE, NORTH VIETNAM WANTS LOAN AID, JAPAN WILL STUDY SUCH AID BASED ON THE INDOCHINA RECONSTRCUTION AND DVELOPMENT MULTILATERAL AID CONFERENCE LIKELY TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER; AND THE LIKE. AS AS RESULT, JAPAN'S ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM, AND THE MOOD FOR EXPANDING TRADE, WILL PROBABLY ADVANCE, END QUOTE.

3. WHEN QUERIED BY EMBOFF MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22, KAZUHARA, DEPUTY HEAD, FIRST SOUTHEAST ASIA DIVISION, FONOFF, RESPONDED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE PRESS STORIES ARE SPECULATION. WE ARE MEETING NOW TO TRY TO DECIDE HOW TO DENY THE STORIES. GOJ HAS NOT YET DECIDED ITS POLICY OF ECONOMIC AID TO DRV. ALTHOUGH IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT GOJ INTENDS TO AID ALL COUNTRIES OF INDOCHINA, IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SAY AT THIS TIME THAT OUR POLICY HAS BEEN DECIDED. END QUOTE.

4. KAZUHARA HAS PROMISED TO MEET WITH EMBOFF EARLY NEXT WEEK TO PROVIDE MORE INFO. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT FURTHER.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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